

4.6 Roman Art and Architecture

End of Roman Republic

Roman Forum (then and now)



The Roman Forum was the political and economic centre of Rome during the Republic.

It became the heart of Rome where people met to talk, trade, govern and worship







Art and Architecture

- Art was influenced by Etruscans and even more by the **Greeks** (sculptures, paintings) with expansion and conquests (ie. Corinth)
- Greek architecture (columns) was fused into Roman culture
- Romans alone gave the world **CONCRETE**



Discontent with Roman Republic



- Widening gap between patricians and plebeians

- Issue of Roman citizenship in colonies

- Wealth from wars and expansion made leaders (governors and generals) greedy and dishonest, and it also caused the poor people to want more rights

- Several consuls were assassinated as others tried to take position by force

- Increasing slave rebellions against severe treatment

Solutions

- continuous attempts to control tensions and help poor (Gracchus brothers)

- Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus= sought land reforms, proposed free grain and more citizen rights... but both were killed

Reasons for Fall of Republic

- state's inability to bridge the gap between rich and poor

- Lack of effective control of Rome's new found wealth & commercialism

- social uprisings of non-Roman Italians over Roman citizenship

- Military reforms of standing army and legions increased power and influence of Roman Generals (ie. Julius Caesar)